23: Hunter C-4 (no date) 1897 AR? Khark AR?

only of five silk for the bride, a part of which hangs gracefully on her 291
as the calves in front. No notice is here taken of what has undoubtedly been added and borrowed from their more civilized neighbours in the plains.

"MARRIAGE.—The marriageable age for females is from 13 to 58 •
18; for males, from 18 to 24. Matrimonial alliances are contracted either through the parents or the living representatives of the families to which the parties belong. The mode of procedure is still very primitive and unceremonious. The bridegroom, escorted by a number of friends and relatives, goes to the house of the bride, where all are feasted and lodged for the night; on the morrow he leads the bride, accompanied by a number of her relatives, to his own home, and entertains the company with dishes of boiled rice and fresh pork. After remaining there a day or two, 591
the newly-married couple return together to the house of the wife, 596
which becomes their future home. Marriage is dissoluble by regular divorce, for any sufficient cause, and often without any assignable reason except mutual dislike or want of issue, the latter being the most common case of all. Marriage with the Khásis [581]
is simply a conventional arrangement, with nothing further for its object than the procreation of children; failing that, it is no longer looked upon as a contract permanently binding. Divorce is effected in the presence of eye-witnesses—the parents, or the heads of clans. Five cowries (kauri's) are produced by the parties and exchanged, then cast away by mutual consent, and the ceremony is over. 587
Parties once divorced can never again contract marriage with each other, but they are at liberty to marry into other families. 595
Polygamy, strictly so called, is not sanctioned by Khási custom. 611
Adultery is looked upon as a serious crime. If the two cowries have not been cast away by mutual consent, both husband and wife are held to be subject to the "matrimonial duress;" 587
and even when either dies in wedlock, the survivor is not at liberty to contract a fresh alliance until he or she pays the family a sum of money as the means of removing the surviving party from subjection to the "matrimonial duress." The husband is 593
entitled, so to speak, to the family fit for his support, and perpetuates 611
the race of elders, not his own. The children in all questions of lineage and personal rights follow the mother. There are always two trustees in the same family—that of the husband, and that of the wife. Whatever the husband may have earned or acquired in 593
628